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(54) Biaxially oriented propylene polymer film or sheet articles

Film-oder Plattenförmige Gegenstände aus biaxial orientiertem Polypropylen

Articles en film ou feuille de polypropylène biaxialement orienté

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• "Polypropylene Handbook" by E.P. Moore, Jr.
(page 404)

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Description

This invention relates to biaxially oriented thermoplastic films, sheets and laminates formed containing at least one surface layer of a film or sheet of high molecular weight distribution propylene polymer material alone or blended with other olefin polymer materials.

In many film application, such as packaging of foodstuffs, chemical and hazardous materials and in medical applications, the industry requires films having certain properties. In the packaging of foodstuffs, for example, the films must have high puncture resistance, high clarity and gloss, and reduce permeability to gases and/or vapors. The films used to manufacture containers for chemicals and hazardous waste materials must have high puncture resistance, high elongation strength, high tear resistance and chemical resistance. Films used in medical applications, such as blood bags, must have a high puncture resistance, low modulus, high tear resistance and auto clavability.

Polypropylene provides a combination of desirable properties, such as tolerance of high temperature, retardation, or prevention, of moisture vapor transmission and approval for contact with food and medical solutions. Thus, polypropylene has been widely used in film and sheets for packaging of foodstuffs, chemical and hazardous materials and medical applications. However, polypropylene does suffer from relatively poor brittleness, low impact strength and clarity.

Attempts have been to overcome the shortcomings of polypropylene in films and sheets by modifying the polypropylene itself or by coextruding the polypropylene with other polyolefin type resins. For example, U.S. 4,514,534 discloses a modified polypropylene comprising low molecular weight polypropylene, a peroxide, a nucleating agent and linear low density polyethylene for biaxially oriented films to improve clarity.

U.S. 4,950,720 discloses modified polypropylene comprising a reactor blend of a high molecular weight propylene/olefin random copolymer with a lower molecular weight substantially isotactic propylene homopolymer. The reference teaches that the modified polypropylene having a molecular weight distribution of from about 5 to about 10 can be extruded or coextruded for use in film applications.

In U.S. 5,011,719 are disclosed multilayer films comprising at least two layers of modified polypropylene-based compositions comprising a blend of a propylene-ethylene copolymer, an ethylene-butene copolymer and optionally an elastomer in either or both layers.

The present invention overcomes substantially many of the shortcomings of the films and sheets of the prior art by providing films or sheets comprising a film or sheet of a propylene polymer material having a molecular weight distribution (MWD) of from 10 to 60 alone, or blended with other or different polyolefin type materials. It has been found that the stiffness and moisture vapor transmission properties of films or sheets of conventional film grade polyolefin type resins, particularly polypropylene, can be improved by adding at least one film or sheet layer comprising a propylene polymer material having a molecular weight distribution of from 10 to 60.

Accordingly, this invention provides a biaxially oriented film or sheet having the desired properties comprising:

- (a) a base or inner layer of a crystalline homopolymer of a C₃₋₁₀ alpha-olefin monomer or of a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) propylene with an olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefins, and (ii) propylene with ethylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin monomer; and
- (b) at least one surface layer of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60 containing from 90 to 30% by weight either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) propylene and ethylene, (ii) propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, (iii) propylene, ethylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, and (iv) a blend of (i) and (ii), said copolymer containing over 80% propylene and having an isotactic index greater than 80.

The films or sheets of the present invention may be constructed so that the film or sheet of component (a) is a base layer having on either surface thereof a film or sheet layer of component (b) containing a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60.

In another embodiment, the films or sheets of the present invention may be constructed so that the film or sheet of component (a) is an inner layer between two film or sheet layers of component (b) containing a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60.

Preferably, component (a) is a film or sheet of (i) a homopolymer of propylene, or butene-1; (ii) a random copolymer of propylene and an olefin selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C_{4-C10} alpha-olefins, provided that, when the olefin is ethylene, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is about 10%, preferably about 4%, and when the olefin is a C_{4-C10} alpha-olefin, the maximum polymerized content thereof is about 20%, preferably about 16%; or (iii) a random terpolymer of propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C_{4-C8} alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C_{4-C8} alpha-olefin content is about 20%, preferably about 16%, and, when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is about 5%, preferably about 4%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%.

The propylene polymer material, component (b), having a broad molecular weight distribution can be a homopolymer of propylene or copolymers of propylene with ethylene, C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins or mixtures thereof in quantities preferably ranging from 0.5 to 6% by weight, most preferably from 2 to 6% by weight with respect to the total copolymer. Said propylene polymer has a having a broad MWD, Mw/Mn, measured by gel permeation chromatography, of from 10 to 60, preferably from 12 to 40, a melt flow rate of from 0.5 to 50, preferably from 3 to 30, and a xylene insolubles at 25°C of greater than or equal to 94%, and preferably greater than or equal to 96%.

Said BMWD propylene polymer material can be blended with a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, preferably greater than 90; or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) a random copolymer of propylene and ethylene, having a maximum polymerized ethylene content of about 10%, and preferably about 4%; (ii) a random copolymer of propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, preferably butene-1, having a maximum polymerized alpha-olefin content of about 20%, preferably about 16%; (iii) a random terpolymer of propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is about 20%, preferably about 16%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is about 5%, preferably about 4%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and (iv) a blend of from 30 to 65%, preferably from 45 to 65% of the copolymer as defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, and preferably from 85 to 95%, with from 35 to 70%, preferably from 35 to 55% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content, i.e. of ethylene and a C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin, of from 2 to 10%, preferably from 2 to 6%, and the ethylene content is preferably from 1 to 3%.

Suitable C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefins include linear or branched C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefins such as, butene-1, pentene-1, 3-methylpentane-1, 4-methylpentene-1, hexene-1, 3,4-dimethylbutene-1, heptene-1, 3-methyl-1-hexene, and octene-1.

When component (b) is a blend of the propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60 and the propylene homopolymer or copolymer described above, the propylene polymer material can be present in an amount of from 10 to 70%, preferably from 10 to 50% by weight of the total blend.

The propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60 described above and used in the present invention, can be prepared by polymerization processes based on the use of particular Ziegler-Natta catalysts.

Preferably, said catalyst contain, as an essential element, a solid catalyst component (a) comprising a titanium compound having at least one titanium-halogen bond, and an electron donor compound both supported on a magnesium halide in active form, and are characterized in that they are capable of producing propylene polymers having a xylene insolubles fraction at 25°C greater than or equal 94%, preferably greater than or equal to 96%, and have a sensitivity to molecular weight regulators (particularly hydrogen), high enough to produce propylene homopolymer having a Melt Index, (MIL), as determined according ASTM D 1238, of less than or equal to 0.5 and greater than or equal to 50 g/10 min. The catalyst used to prepared the propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60 used in this invention, therefore, are obtained by contacting:

- (a) the above mentioned solid catalyst component;
- (b) an Al-Alkyl compound;
- (c) an external electron-donor compound.

Solid catalyst components (a) having the above mentioned characteristics are well known in patent literature.

Particularly suited are the solid catalyst components used in the catalysts described in U.S. 4,339,054, and EP 45,977. Other examples are set forth in U.S. 4,472,524.

In general, the solid catalyst components used in said catalysts comprise, as electron-donor compounds, compounds selected from the ethers, ketones, lactones, compounds containing N, P, and/or S atoms, and esters of mono- and dicarboxylic acids.

Particularly suited are the esters of phthalic acid, such as diisobutyl, dioctyl and diphenyl phthalate, and benzylbutyl phthalate; the esters of malonic acid such as diisobutyl and diethyl malonate; the alkyl and aryl pivalates, the alkyl, cycloalkyl and aryl maleates, alkyl and aryl carbonates such as diisobutyl carbonate, ethyl phenyl carbonate, and diphenyl carbonate; the esters of succinic acid such as mono and diethyl succinate.

The preparation of the above mentioned catalysts is carried out according to various methods.

For example, the magnesium halide (anhydrous, i.e., containing less than 1% of water), the titanium compound, and the electron-donor compound can be milled under conditions where the magnesium halide is active. The milled product is then treated one or more times with an excess of TiCl₄ at temperatures from 80 to 135°C, after which it is washed repeatedly with a hydrocarbon (hexane, for example) until all the chlorine ions have disappeared.

According to another method, the anhydrous magnesium halide is preactivated according to known methods, and then caused to react with an excess of TiCl₄ containing the electron donor compound in solution. Here again the operation takes place at temperatures ranging from 80°C and 135°C. Optionally, the treatment with TiCl₄ is repeated, and the solid washed with hexane, or another hydrocarbon solvent, in order to eliminate all traces of nonreacted TiCl₄.

According to another method, a $\text{MgCl}_2 \cdot n\text{ROH}$ adduct (in particular under the form of spheroidal particles), where n is generally comprised from 1 and 3, and ROH is ethanol, butanol, or isobutanol, is caused to react with an excess of TiCl_4 containing the electron-donor compound in solution. The temperature generally ranges from 80°C to 120°C . The solid is then isolated and caused to react once more with the TiCl_4 , after which it is separated and washed with a hydrocarbon until all chlorine ions have disappeared.

According to another method, magnesium alcoholates and chloroalcoholates (particularly the chloroalcoholates prepared according to the method described in US patent 4,220,554) are caused to react with an excess of TiCl_4 containing the electron-donor compound in solution, operating under the reaction conditions already described.

In the solid catalyst component (a), the titanium compound expressed as Ti is generally present in a percentage ranging from 0.5 to 10% by weight. The quantity of electron donor compound which remains fixed on the solid component (internal donor), generally ranges from 5 to 20% in moles with respect to the magnesium dihalide.

The titanium compounds which can be used for the preparation of the solid catalyst component (a) are the halides and the halogen alcoholates. Titanium tetrachloride is the preferred compound.

Satisfactory results can be obtained also with titanium trihalides, particularly TiCl_3OR where R is a phenyl radical.

The reactions indicated above bring to the formation of magnesium halide in active form. Besides these reactions, other reactions are known in the literature which cause the formation of activated magnesium halide starting from magnesium compounds different from the halides, such as carboxylates of magnesium, for example.

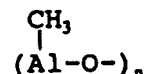
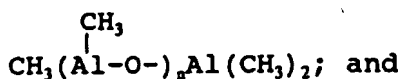
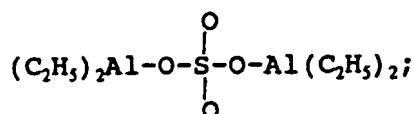
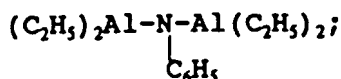
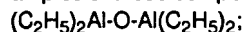
The active form of the magnesium halides in the catalyst components (a) can be recognized by the fact that in the X-ray spectrum of the catalyst component the major intensity reflection, which appears on the spectrum of the nonactivated magnesium chloride (having a surface area smaller than $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$), is no longer present, but in its place there is a halo with the maximum intensity shifted with respect to the position of the major intensity reflection of the nonactivated magnesium dihalide, or by the fact that the major intensity reflection shows a width at half-height at least 30% greater than the one of the major intensity reflection which appears in the nonactivated Mg chloride spectrum.

The most active forms are those where the above mentioned halo appears in the X-ray spectrum of the component.

Among the magnesium halides, the chloride is the preferred compound. In the case of the most active forms of magnesium chloride, the X-ray spectrum of the catalyst component shows a halo instead of the reflection which in the spectrum of the nonactivated chloride appears at a distance of 2.56 \AA .

The Al-alkyl compounds (b) used as co-catalysts comprise the Al-trialkyls, such as Al-triethyl, Al-isobutyl, Al-tri-n-butyl, and linear or cyclic Al-alkyl compounds containing two or more Al atoms bonded by way of O or N atoms, or SO_4 and SO_3 groups.

Examples of these compounds are:



where n is a number from 1 to 20.

The Al-alkyl compound is generally used in such quantities that the Al/Ti ratio ranges from 1 to 1000. In addition to the solid catalyst component (a) and the Al-alkyl compound (b), the catalysts used in the process of the present invention comprise an external electron-donor compound (c) (i.e., an electron donor added to the Al-alkyl compound). Said external electron donor compound is selected from silanes capable of conferring to the catalyst the above mentioned

levels of stereospecificity (determined by the high content of fraction insoluble in xylene at 25°C) and sensitivity to the molecular weight regulator.

Suitable for this purpose are the silanes containing at least one cyclopentyl group bonded to the silicon, and one or more -OR groups also bonded to the silicon atom, where R is a C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, C₃-C₁₈ cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₈ aryl, or C₇-C₁₈ aralkyl radical. Preferably R is methyl or ethyl. Particularly suited is the dicyclopentylmethoxysilane (DCPMS). The above mentioned external donors are generally used in quantities ranging from 0.001 to 15 moles, preferably from 1 to 10 moles with respect to the moles of Al-alkyl compound (b).

Preferably, the process for preparing the propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60 used in the present invention comprises polymerization of monomers in the presence of the above catalysts, where the polymerization occurs in at least two stages, preparing fraction (A) and (B) in separate and consecutive stages, and operating in each stage in the presence of the polymer and the catalyst coming from the preceding stage.

The polymerization process can be carried out in batch or in continuous mode, according to known techniques, operating in liquid phase in the presence or not of an inert diluent, or in gas phase, or liquid-gas phase, preferably gas phase.

Reaction times and temperatures are not critical, however, it is best if the temperature ranges from 20°C to 100°C. As previously stated the regulation of the molecular weight is done by using known regulators, particularly hydrogen.

The catalysts can be precontacted with small quantities of olefins (prepolymerization). Prepolymerization improves both catalyst activity and polymers' morphology.

The prepolymerization is carried out maintaining the catalyst in suspension in a hydrocarbon solid (hexane or heptane, for example), and the polymerization temperature is between ambient temperature and 60°C for a period of time which is sufficient to produce a quantity of polymer ranging from 0.5 to 3 times the weight of the solid component. It can also be carried out in liquid propylene under the above indicated temperature conditions, and producing quantities of polymer that can reach 1000 g per g of catalyst component.

With respect to the thickness of the film materials according to the present invention, biaxially oriented film materials of conventional thickness and thin films less than 20 mils thick to as thin as about 0.1 mils can be prepared as well as heavy film materials, typically referred to as sheets, from 20 to 100 mils thick.

There is no particular limitation with respect to the method of producing the films or sheets of the present invention. They can be produced by utilizing any conventional coextrusion equipment and processing conditions.

Unless otherwise specified, the following analytical methods are used to characterize the polymer materials, films prepared therefrom and comparative films.

Properties	Method
Moisture Vapor Transmission Rate, (MVTR)	ASTM-E 96
Elongation @ break, (MD/CD), %	ASTM-D 638
Tensile Str. @ break, (MD/CD), %	ASTM-D 638
Tangent Modulus	ASTM 638
Haze, %	ASTM-D 1003
Melt Flow Rate (MFR)	ASTM-D 1238, condition L
Molecular Weight Distribution, (Mw/Mn)	Determined by Waters 150-C ALC/GPC, in trichlorobenzene at 145°C with a differential refractive index detector.

Control 1

A three layer film is coextruded and biaxially oriented, having a thickness of 20 µm. The inner layer of the film is prepared from KF 6100, a propylene homopolymer having a MFR of 3-4, produced by Shell Chemical Company, and is 80% of the overall thickness of the film. The two surface layers on both sides of the inner layer each consist of the same propylene homopolymer used for the inner layer and each comprise 10% of the thickness of the film.

Control 2

A three layer film is coextruded and biaxially oriented, having a total thickness of 20 µm. The inner layer of the film is 80% of the overall thickness of the film and is prepared from a propylene homopolymer having a Mw/Mn greater than

20 and a MFR of 3-5. The two surface layers on both sides each comprise 10% of the thickness of the film. The surface layers each consist of the same propylene homopolymer used for the inner layer.

Example 1

A three layer film is coextruded and biaxially oriented, having a total thickness of 20 μm . The inner layer of the film is the same KF 6100, propylene homopolymer used above in Control 1, and is 80% of the overall thickness of the film. The two surface layers on both sides each comprise 10% of the thickness of the film. The surface layers each consist of 10% of a propylene homopolymer having a Mw/Mn greater than 20, and a MFR of 3-5.

Set forth in Table 1 below, are the physical properties of the resulting films of Example 1 of the present invention and Controls 1 and 2.

Table 1

Properties	Resins		
	Ex. 1	Con. 1	Con. 2
Elongation @ Break, (MD/CD), %	152/30	151/28	110/28
Tensile Str. @ Break, (MD/CD), %	24/36	26/40	21/36
Tangent Modulus, (MD/CD), kpsi	233/453	234/406	327/456
Haze, %	2.4	0.4	1.1
MVTR, gm/100in ² /24 hr.	0.2	0.4	0.3

It can be seen from Table 1 that Example 1 of the present invention have improved stiffness and moisture barrier properties than the film of Controls 1 and 2.

Control 3

A three layer film is coextruded and biaxially oriented, having a thickness of 20 μm . The inner layer of the film is prepared from KF 6100, a propylene homopolymer having a MFR of 3-4, and is 90% of the overall thickness of the film. The two surface layers on both sides of the inner layer each consist of the same polypropylene used for the inner layer, and each comprised 5% of the thickness of the film.

Example 2

A three layer film is coextruded and biaxially oriented, having a total thickness of 20 μm . The inner layer of the film is prepared from KF 6100, a propylene polymer having a MFR of 3-4, and is 90% of the overall thickness of the film. The two surface layers on both sides each comprise 5% of the thickness of the film. The surface layers each consist of a propylene homopolymer having a Mw/Mn greater than 20, and a MFR of 3-5.

Example 3

A three layer film coextruded and biaxially oriented, as in Example 2, except that blend of the two surface layers consisted of 50% of the broad molecular weight distribution polypropylene and 50% of the propylene homopolymer and each surface layer comprised 5% of the thickness of the film.

In Table 1, the moisture vapor transmission property of the resulting films of Examples 3 and 4 of the present invention were compared with the polypropylene of Control 2.

Table 2

Resin	Moisture Vapor Transmission Rate
Control 3	0.42
Example 2	0.32
Example 3	0.37

As seen from the above Table 2, the films of the present invention demonstrate about a 30% to 50% improvement in moisture vapor transmission over the film of Control 2, which contained only layers of propylene homopolymer.

Other features, advantages and embodiments of the invention disclosed herein will be readily apparent to those exercising ordinary skill after reading the foregoing disclosures. In this regard, while specific embodiments of the invention have been described in considerable detail, variations and modifications of these embodiments can be effected without departing from the scope of the invention as described and claimed.

Claims

1. A biaxially oriented film or sheet article comprising:

(a) a film or sheet of a conventional crystalline homopolymer of a C₃₋₁₀ alpha-olefin monomer or of a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) propylene with ethylene or C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin monomer, and (ii) propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin; and

(b) at least one layer of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60, optionally containing from 90% to 30 %, by weight, either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) propylene and ethylene, (ii) propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, having a maximum polymerized C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin content of 20 %, (iii) propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is 20%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is 5%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and (iv) a blend of from 30 to 65% of the copolymer defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, with from 35 to 70% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content of from 2 to 10%, and an ethylene content from 1 to 3%.

2. The article of claim 1, wherein (a) is a propylene homopolymer.

3. The article of claim 2, wherein (b) is a propylene polymer material having a MWD of 12 to 50.

4. The article of claim 1, wherein (a) is a copolymer.

5. The article of claim 4, wherein (h) is a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 12 to 50.

6. The article of claim 2, wherein (b) is a blend of from 10% to 70 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 12 to 50, with from 90 % to 30 %, by weight, either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a random copolymer of propylene and ethylene having a maximum polymerized ethylene content of 10 %; (ii) propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, having a maximum polymerized C_{4-C10} alpha-olefin content of 20 %; (iii) propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is 20%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is 5%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and (iv) a blend of from 30 to 65% of the copolymer defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, with from 35 to 70% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content of from 2 to 10%, and an ethylene content from 1 to 3%.

7. The article of claim 6, wherein said blend is 10 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 20 to 25, with 90 %, by weight, of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index of greater than 80.

8. The article of claim 4, wherein (b) is a blend of 10% to 70 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 12 to 50, with 90 % to 30 %, by weight, either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a random copolymer of propylene and ethylene having a maximum polymerized ethylene content of about 10 %;

(ii) a random copolymer of propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, having a maximum polymerized C_{4-C10} alpha-olefin content of about 20 %;

(iii) a random terpolymer of propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is 20%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is about 5%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and

(iv) a blend of from 30 to 65% of the copolymer defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, with from 35 to 70% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content of from 2 to 10%, and an ethylene content from 1 to 3%.

9. The article of claim 8, wherein said blend is 10 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 20 to 25, with a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index of greater than 80.

10. The article of claim 1, further comprising a second surface layer consisting of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 10 to 60, optionally containing from 90 % to 30 %, by weight, either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a random copolymer of propylene and ethylene having a maximum polymerized ethylene content of 10 %;

(ii) a random copolymer of propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin, having a maximum polymerized C_{4-C10} alpha-olefin content of 20 %;

(iii) a random terpolymer of propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is 20%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is 5%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and

(iv) a blend of from 30 to 65% of the copolymer defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, with from 35 to 70% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content of from 2 to 10%, and an ethylene content from 1 to 3%.

11. The article of claim 10, wherein the second surface layer is a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 12 to 50.

12. The article of claim 10, wherein the second surface layer is a blend of 10 % to 70 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 12 to 50, with 90 % to 30 %, by weight, either of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index greater than 80, or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a random copolymer of propylene and ethylene having a maximum polymerized ethylene content of 10 %;

(ii) a random copolymer of propylene and a C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin having a maximum polymerized C_{4-C10} alpha-olefin content of 20 %;

(iii) propylene and two different olefins selected from the group consisting of ethylene and C₄₋₈ alpha-olefins, provided that the maximum polymerized C₄₋₈ alpha-olefin content is about 20%, and when ethylene is one of the olefins, the maximum polymerized ethylene content is 5%, with a maximum comonomer content of 25%; and

(iv) a blend of from 30 to 65% of the copolymer defined in (ii), which contains from 80 to 98% propylene, with from 35 to 70% of the copolymer defined in (i) which contains from 7 to 9% ethylene, or of the terpolymer defined in (iii) having a total comonomer content of from 2 to 10%, and an ethylene content from 1 to 3%.

13. The article of claim 12, wherein said blend is 10 % to 50 %, by weight, of a propylene polymer material having a MWD of from 20 to 25, with 90 % to 50 %, by weight, of a propylene homopolymer having an isotactic index of greater than 80.

Patentansprüche

1. Biaxial orientierter Feinfolien- oder Foliengegenstand, umfassend:

5 (a) eine Feinfolie oder Folie aus einem herkömmlichen kristallinen Homopolymeren eines C₃- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin-Monomeren oder einem Copolymeren, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus: (i) Propylen mit Ethylen oder einem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin-Monomeren, und (ii) Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und einem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin besteht; und

10 (b) zumindest einer Schicht aus einem Propylenpolymermaterial mit einem MWD-Wert von 10-60, wahlweise mit einem Gehalt von 90 Gew.% bis 30 Gew.% entweder eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80, oder eines Copolymeren, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus (i) Propylen und Ethylen, (ii) Propylen und einem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin, mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin von 20%, (iii) Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und C₄- bis C₈-alpha-Olefinen besteht, mit der Maßgabe, daß der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₈-alpha-Olefin 20% beträgt, und, wenn Ethylen eines der Olefine ist, der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen 5 % ist, mit einem Maximalgehalt an Comonomerem von 25%; und (iv) einem Blend von 30 bis 65% des in (ii) definierten Copolymeren, das 80-98% Propylen enthält, mit 35-70 % des in (i) definierten Copolymeren, das 7-9% Ethylen enthält, oder des in (iii) definierten Terpolymeren mit einem Gesamtgehalt an Comonomeren von 2-10% und einem Ethylengehalt von 1-3%.

2. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 1, bei dem (a) ein Propylenhomopolymer ist.

3. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 2, bei dem (b) ein Propylenpolymermaterial mit einem MWD-Wert von 12 bis 50 ist.

4. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 1, bei dem (a) ein Copolymer ist.

5. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 4, bei dem (b) ein Propylenpolymermaterial mit einem MWD-Wert von 12-50 ist.

6. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 2, bei dem (b) ein Blend von 10 Gew.% bis 70 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials mit einem MWD-Wert von 12-50 mit 90 Gew.% bis 30 Gew.% entweder eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 oder eines Copolymeren ist, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus:

(i) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und Ethylen mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen von 10%;

(ii) von Propylen und einem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin von 20 %;

(iii) von Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und C₄- bis C₈-alpha-Olefinen besteht, mit der Maßgabe, daß der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₈-Olefin 20 % beträgt und wenn Ethylen eines der Olefine ist, der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen 5 % beträgt, mit einem Maximalgehalt an Comonomerem von 25%; und

(iv) einem Blend von 30-65 % des in (ii) definierten Copolymeren, das 80-98% Propylen enthält, mit 35-70% des in (i) definierten Copolymeren, das 7-9% Ethylen enthält, oder des in (iii) definierten Terpolymeren mit einem Gesamtgehalt an Comonomerem von 2-10 % und einem Ethylengehalt von 1-3%.

7. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 6, bei dem das Blend 10 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials mit einem MWD-Wert von 20-25% mit 90 Gew.% eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 ist.

8. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 4, bei dem (b) ein Blend von 10 Gew.% bis 70 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials mit einem MWD-Wert von 12-50 mit 90-30 Gew.% entweder eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 oder eines Copolymeren ist, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus:

(i) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und Ethylen mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen von etwa 10%;

(ii) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und einem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₁₀-alpha-Olefin von etwa 20 %;

(iii) einem statistischen Terpolymeren von Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und C₄- bis C₈-alpha-Olefinen besteht, mit der Maßgabe, daß der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄- bis C₈-alpha-Olefin 20 % beträgt, und, wenn Ethylen eines der Olefine ist, der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen etwa 5 % beträgt, mit einem Maximalgehalt an Comonomerem von 25%; und

(iv) einem Blend von 30-65% des in (ii) definierten Copolymeren, das 80-98% Propylen enthält, mit 35-70% des in (i) definierten Copolymeren, das 7 bis 9% Ethylen enthält, oder des in (iii) definierten Terpolymeren mit einem Gesamtgehalt an Comonomerem von 2-10% und einem Ethylengehalt von 1-3%.

9. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 8, bei dem das Blend 10 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials, das einen MWD-Wert von 20-25% besitzt, mit einem Propylenhomopolymeren, das einen isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 aufweist, ist.

10. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 1, ferner umfassend eine zweite Oberflächenschicht, die aus einem Propylenpolymermaterial mit einem MWD-Wert von 10-60 besteht und die wahlweise 90 Gew.% bis 30 Gew.% entweder eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 oder eines Copolymeren enthält, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus:

(i) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und Ethylen mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen von 10%;

(ii) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und einem C₄₋₁₀-alpha-Olefin mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄₋₁₀-alpha-Olefin von 20%;

(iii) einem statistischen Terpolymeren von Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und C₄₋₈-alpha-Olefinen besteht, mit der Maßgabe, daß der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄₋₈-alpha-Olefin 20% beträgt, und wenn Ethylen eines der Olefine ist, der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen 5 % beträgt, mit einem Maximalgehalt an Comonomerem von 25%; und

(iv) einem Blend von 30 bis 65% des in (ii) definierten Copolymeren, das 80-98% Propylen enthält, mit 35-70% des in (i) definierten Copolymeren, das 7-9% Ethylen enthält, oder des in (iii) definierten Terpolymeren mit einem Gesamtgehalt an Comonomerem von 2-10% und einem Ethylengehalt von 1-3%.

11. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 10, bei dem die zweite Oberflächenschicht ein Propylenpolymermaterial mit einem MWD-Wert von 12-50 ist.

12. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 10, bei dem die zweite Oberflächenschicht ein Blend von 10 Gew.% bis 70 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials, das einen MWD-Wert von 12-50 aufweist, mit 90 Gew.% bis 30 Gew.% entweder eines Propylenhomopolymeren mit einem isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80 oder eines Copolymeren ist, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die besteht aus:

(i) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und Ethylen mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen von 10%;

(ii) einem statistischen Copolymeren von Propylen und einem C₄₋₁₀-alpha-Olefin mit einem Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄₋₁₀-alpha-Olefin von 20%;

(iii) einem statistischen Terpolymeren von Propylen und zwei unterschiedlichen Olefinen, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, die aus Ethylen und C₄-C₈-alpha-Olefinen besteht, mit der Maßgabe, daß der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem C₄-C₈-alpha-Olefin etwa 20% beträgt, und, wenn Ethylen eines der Olefine ist, der Maximalgehalt an polymerisiertem Ethylen 5% beträgt, mit einem Maximalgehalt an Comonomerem von 25 %; und

(iv) einem Blend von 30-65% des in (ii) definierten Copolymeren, das 80-98% Propylen enthält, mit 35-70 % des in (i) definierten Copolymeren, das 7-9% Ethylen enthält, oder des in (iii) definierten Terpolymeren, das

einen Gesamtgehalt an Comonomerem von 2-10% und einen Ethylengehalt von 1-3% besitzt.

13. Gegenstand gemäß Anspruch 12, bei dem das Blend 10-50 Gew.% eines Propylenpolymermaterials eines MWD-Werts von 20-25 mit 90 Gew.% bis 50 Gew.% eines Propylenhomopolymeren, das einen isotaktischen Index von mehr als 80% aufweist, ist.

Revendications

1. Article en film ou en feuille à orientation biaxiale, comprenant:

(a) un film ou une feuille d'un homopolymère cristallin conventionnel d'un monomère d'alpha-oléfine en C₃-C₁₀ ou encore d'un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par (i) du propylène avec un monomère d'éthylène ou d'alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀, et par (ii) du propylène et deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀; et

(b) au moins une couche d'une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 10 à 60, contenant le cas échéant, à concurrence de 90 à 30% en poids, soit un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80, soit un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par (i) du propylène et de l'éthylène, (ii) du propylène et une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ dont la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ à l'état polymérisé représente 20%, (iii) du propylène et deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et des alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈, à condition que la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈ à l'état polymérisé représente 20%, et lorsque l'éthylène représente une des oléfines, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 5%, la teneur maximale en comonomères s'élevant à 25%; et (iv) un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 30 à 65%, le copolymère défini dans (ii) qui contient du propylène à concurrence de 80 à 98%, et par, à concurrence de 35 à 70%, le copolymère défini dans (i) qui contient de l'éthylène à concurrence de 7 à 9%, ou constitué par le terpolymère défini dans (iii), dont la teneur totale en comonomères s'élève de 2 à 10% et dont la teneur en éthylène s'élève de 1 à 3%.

2. Article selon la revendication 1, dans lequel (a) représente un homopolymère de propylène.

3. Article selon la revendication 2, dans lequel (b) représente une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50.

4. Article selon la revendication 1, dans lequel (a) représente un copolymère.

5. Article selon la revendication 4, dans lequel (b) représente une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50.

6. Article selon la revendication 2, dans lequel (b) représente un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 10% à 70% en poids, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50, et par, à concurrence de 90% à 30% en poids, soit un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80, soit un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par:

(i) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'éthylène, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé s'élevant à 10%;

(ii) du propylène et une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀, la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ à l'état polymérisé s'élevant à 20%;

(iii) du propylène et deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et des alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈, à condition que la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈ à l'état polymérisé représente 20% et, lorsque l'éthylène représente une des oléfines, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 5%, avec une teneur maximale en comonomères de 25%; et

(iv) un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 30 à 65%, le copolymère défini dans (ii) qui contient du propylène à concurrence de 80 à 98%, et par, à concurrence de 35 à 70%, le copolymère défini dans (i) qui contient de l'éthylène à concurrence de 7 à 9%, ou constitué par le terpolymère défini dans (iii) possédant une teneur totale en comonomères de 2 à 10% et une teneur en éthylène de 1 à 3%.

7. Article selon la revendication 6, dans lequel ledit mélange est constitué par, à concurrence de 10% en poids, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 20 à 25, et par, à concurrence de 90% en poids, un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80.

8. Article selon la revendication 4, dans lequel (b) représente un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 10% à 70% en poids, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50, et par, à concurrence de 70% à 30% en poids, soit un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80, soit un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par:

(i) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'éthylène, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé s'élevant à 10%;

(ii) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀, dont la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ à l'état polymérisé représente environ 20%;

(iii) un terpolymère statistique de propylène et de deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et des alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈, à condition que la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈ à l'état polymérisé représente 20% et, lorsque l'éthylène représente une des oléfines, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente environ 5%, avec une teneur maximale en comonomères de 25%; et

(iv) un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 30 à 65%, le copolymère défini dans (ii) qui contient du propylène à concurrence de 80 à 98%, et par, à concurrence de 35 à 70%, le copolymère défini dans (i) qui contient de l'éthylène à concurrence de 7 à 9%, ou constitué par le terpolymère défini dans (iii) possédant une teneur totale en comonomères de 2 à 10% et une teneur en éthylène de 1 à 3%.

9. Article selon la revendication 8, dans lequel ledit mélange est constitué par, à concurrence de 10% en poids, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 20 à 25, et par un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80.

10. Article selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre une seconde couche superficielle constituée d'une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 10 à 60, contenant le cas échéant, à concurrence de 90% à 30% en poids, soit un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80, soit un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par:

(i) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'éthylène dont la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 10%;

(ii) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀, dont la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ à l'état polymérisé représente 20%;

(iii) un terpolymère statistique de propylène et de deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et des alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈, à condition que la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈ à l'état polymérisé représente 20% et, lorsque l'éthylène représente une des oléfines, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 5%, avec une teneur maximale en comonomères de 25%; et

(iv) un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 30 à 65%, le copolymère défini dans (ii) qui contient du propylène à concurrence de 80 à 98%, et par, à concurrence de 35 à 70%, le copolymère défini dans (i) qui contient de l'éthylène à concurrence de 7 à 9%, ou constitué par le terpolymère défini dans (iii) possédant une teneur totale en comonomères de 2 à 10% et une teneur en éthylène de 1 à 3%.

11. Article selon la revendication 10, dans lequel la seconde couche superficielle représente une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50.

12. Article selon la revendication 10, dans lequel la seconde couche superficielle est un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 10% à 70% en poids, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 12 à 50, et par, à concurrence de 90% à 30% en poids, soit un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80, soit un copolymère choisi parmi le groupe constitué par:

(i) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'éthylène, dont la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 10%;

(ii) un copolymère statistique de propylène et d'une alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀, dont la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfine en C₄-C₁₀ à l'état polymérisé représente 20%;

(iii) du propylène et deux oléfines différentes choisies parmi le groupe constitué par l'éthylène et des alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈, à condition que la teneur maximale en alpha-oléfines en C₄-C₈ à l'état polymérisé représente environ 20% et, lorsque l'éthylène représente une des oléfines, la teneur maximale en éthylène à l'état polymérisé représente 5%, avec une teneur maximale en comonomères de 25%; et

(iv) un mélange constitué par, à concurrence de 30 à 65%, le copolymère défini dans (ii) qui contient du propylène à concurrence de 80 à 98%, et par, à concurrence de 35 à 70%, le copolymère défini dans (i) qui con-

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tient de l'éthylène à concurrence de 7 à 9%, ou constitué par le terpolymère défini dans (iii) possédant une teneur totale en comonomères de 2 à 10% et une teneur en éthylène de 1 à 3%.

- 5 13. Article selon la revendication 12, dans lequel ledit mélange est constitué par, à concurrence de 10% à 50%, une matière polymère de propylène possédant une valeur MWD de 20 à 25, et par, à concurrence de 90% à 50% en poids, un homopolymère de propylène possédant un indice isotactique supérieur à 80.

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